



25th September 2026



With respect, kindness and resilience, we flourish together.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Kindness: A Value That Shapes Who We Are

At our school, kindness is much more than a word on a display or a value we talk about in assembly. It is a way of thinking, acting and treating others each and every day. As one of our core school values, kindness helps to create a safe, happy and respectful community where everyone feels valued and supported.

Kindness starts with the small things. In school, it can be seen when children include others in their games, offer help to a classmate who is finding something difficult, listen carefully when someone is speaking, or use polite and encouraging words. Kindness means celebrating each other's successes, showing respect when opinions differ, and understanding that everyone may be facing challenges that we cannot always see.

Outside of school, kindness is just as important. It can be shown through helping a neighbour, checking in on a friend, thanking those who support us, caring for our environment, or simply smiling and saying hello to others in our community. Small acts of kindness often have a bigger impact than we realise and can brighten someone's day in ways we may never know.

Being kind is not always easy. Sometimes it means putting someone else's needs before our own, choosing patience when we are frustrated, or standing up for what is right. True kindness requires empathy, courage and thoughtfulness. It is about considering how our actions affect others and making choices that bring out the best in the people around us.

As a school community, we want our children to understand that kindness is not something we do occasionally; it is something we strive to live out every day. By showing kindness in our classrooms, playgrounds, homes and local community, we help to build stronger relationships and create a culture where everyone feels they belong.

This term, we encourage everyone to look for opportunities to spread kindness wherever they go. Whether it is a kind word, a helping hand or a thoughtful gesture, every act matters. Together, we can ensure that kindness remains at the heart of our school and our community.

Remember: kindness costs nothing, but it means everything.



From the Classrooms...

Nursery/Reception



This week, Nursery and Reception have been learning all about Autumn. We have read *The Leaf Thief* and the children have shown great perseverance while drawing the squirrel during our Drawing Club sessions.

The Reception children enjoyed a visit to our Forest School area, where they went on a hunt for different coloured leaves and explored the signs of autumn around them. In maths, we have been learning all about the number 4 and the children were challenged to find four autumn leaves outdoors.

We were also delighted to welcome Sweep the Therapy Dog to school. The children enjoyed meeting Sweep and talked about different ways they can show kindness to others.

Well done to all the children for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 1/2



This week in Year 1/2, we have been busy developing our vocabulary to make our sentences more interesting and engaging, while also focusing on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops correctly. In History, we have been learning about family history and are looking forward to exploring everyone's baby photos over the coming weeks to see how we have changed as we have grown. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning about one more and one less within 10, while Year 2 have been counting in 10s and using manipulatives to build and represent numbers to 100. We also enjoyed taking part in a yoga session as a year group, which was great fun and helped us to practise our balance, stretching and mindfulness. We are very proud of the hard work and enthusiasm the children have shown across all their learning this week!



From the Classrooms...

Year 4



Y4 have been busy creating their own polka dots inspired by Yayoi Kusama, using the technique of printing with block colour and bubble wrap for texture!

Explorers



The Explorers have been learning about building self-esteem this week. They have been thinking about what qualities they like about themselves, what they are good at and what they have achieved. Remember...you are all special and unique!





LEARNING LEGENDS

*Well,
Done!*



*Well,
Done!*

*Well,
Done!*



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Safeguarding Information for Parents

As part of our commitment to keeping children safe, we would like to share an upcoming online session for parents hosted by the Dartmoor Academy Trust Safeguarding Team.

Let's Talk Primary: Building Strong Foundations

 Wednesday 30 September

 7:30pm to 8:30pm

This informative session will provide practical advice and guidance to help parents support their children's wellbeing, safety and development.

To book a free place, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-primary-building-strong-foundations-tickets-1996778772059>

We encourage all parents and carers to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.



Green Box Scheme

All parents are welcome to come and take advantage of this fantastic deal for Okehampton families, which also helps the environment! For just **£2.50**, you can get a whole box of good quality surplus food, valued at over **£10!**

We look forward to seeing you there!



**EVERY
THURS**

OKEHAMPTON GREEN BOX

📍 Okehampton Primary

🕒 15:00



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Can you help?



**The Green Box Project -
at Okehampton Primary School is looking for
more volunteers!**

- Volunteers are needed to join a friendly team on Thursdays, even if you only have an hour to give on occasional weeks.
- Tasks are fun and can involve receiving the food delivery, stock taking, making up the boxes with a variety of foods, or selling the boxes to families.
- This is an environmental project and an exciting scheme to be part of.
- Please contact Melissa Trudgill at mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk for more information - we would love to hear from you!





ABSENCE REPORTING , MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS & OFFICE HOURS

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ensure you notify the school office by email or telephone before **08:00am** on the day of absence.

PLEASE NOTE: Absences should be report to the new email address: **absence@okehamptonprimary.org.uk** or via telephone: 0183752866

For planned medical appointments, parents/carers must inform the office in advance by completing the S2 Absence/Holiday form, available on our website or at reception:

<https://www.okehampton-pri.devon.sch.uk/Parents/Forms-and-Documents/>

The completed form should be submitted either by hand or via email, and must include **evidence of the appointment where possible.**

We understand that emergency appointments can arise; however, the school office must still be notified as soon as possible.

Please note that the school office is open from 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.



IS YOUR CHILD FEELING

UNDER THE WEATHER?

TELL US

Does your child have...

- ✓ a mild cold?
- ✓ a mild cough?
- ✓ a need for some extra care whilst recovering from absence?
- ✓ a general feeling of being unwell?
- ✓ worries they've shared with you?

WE CAN

Give extra check-ins

Administer medicine (with a form)

Give additional rest breaks

Provide indoor break spaces

Give support for managing worries

Contact you if they are too unwell

Email absence@okehamptonprimary.org.uk to let us know they need something extra today

SEENDDTTHHEEMMTOOSSCHHOOLL&



Photo Consents Reminder

You may have noticed that there have been fewer pupil photographs featured in recent school newsletters. This is because we are carefully adhering to the photo consent preferences recorded for each child.

As previously communicated, we recently updated our photo consent wording on Arbor to reflect developments in technology, including artificial intelligence (AI). While the way we use photographs in school has not changed, we ask all families to review and confirm their preferences to ensure our records are accurate and up to date.

If you have not yet reviewed your child's photo consents, please do so via Arbor at your earliest convenience.

For information on accessing Arbor, please visit:

<https://www.okehampton-pri.devon.sch.uk/Parents/Arbor-Schoolgateway/>

If you have any problems or cannot access Arbor we do have hardcopies available at the office



SCHOOL NOTICE



Year 6 Art Project

Year 6 are looking for clean, large plastic bottles and other large recyclable plastic items for an upcoming art project. Please send any suitable items into school if you can.

Thank you for your support



PEAK Devon Online Community Session for SEND Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with SEND or additional needs?
Join us for a friendly and informal online session where you can find out more about the support
PEAK can offer you and your family.

This is also a chance to connect with other parents, ask questions, share experiences and talk through some of the challenges you may be facing in a supportive and understanding space. During the session, we will explain the different ways PEAK can support families, including our free consultation pathway and our 10-week family support programme through Early Help. Whether you are struggling to know where to turn, would like some practical advice, or simply want to connect with other families who understand, you are very welcome to join us.

 Online session

 Friendly, informal and supportive

 Open to parents and carers of children with SEND

Come along, meet the PEAK team and find out how we can support you and your family. Please do not feel pressured to join for the entire hour, we understand that your time is precious- so feel free to pop along for whatever length suits!

<https://www.ticketsource.com/peak-devon/peak-devon-community-support-session-online/e-olvxye>

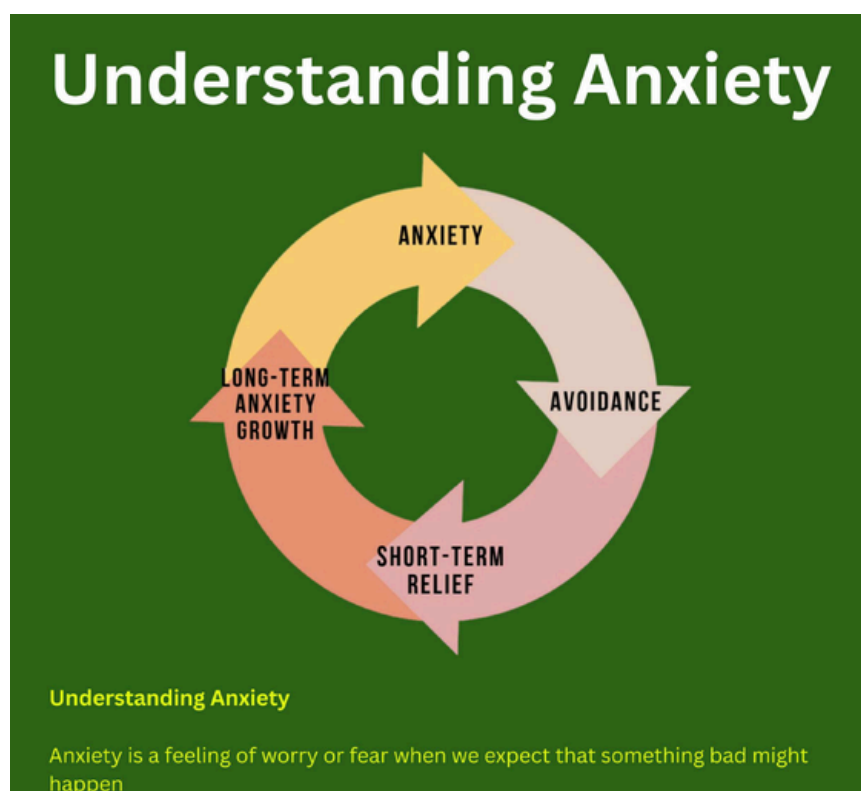




Sen Parent Forum

**FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026 -
9:30 IN GREAT LINKS TOR AT
OKEHAMPTON PRIMARY**

Miss Dart will be leading an informal information-sharing session around anxiety in children. This will be a chance to share resources, ideas and practical strategies, as well as learn from one another about ways we can support children who experience anxiety or worry in different situations.





Okehampton Library Half-Term Event



The Treetop Circus is coming to Okehampton Library this half term!

Join Count Cuckoo's magical woodland circus for a fun-filled puppet show inspired by Dartmoor's pine martens, followed by a craft workshop where children can make their own dancing pine marten puppet.

Suitable for children aged 5-11 years and their families. The event runs from 2:00pm - 4:00pm at Okehampton Library.

Tickets: £3 for library members, £5 for non-members (free tickets available for those who may need them).

Book here:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/librariesunlimited/t-qmarkvp>

YOUNGMINDS

**Hello
Yellow**
FRIDAY 9 OCT

**Wear yellow,
say hello.**

**Support young people's
mental health.**

Dear parents and carers,

Our school will be taking part in Hello Yellow on Friday 9th October 2026 (World Mental Health Day) to raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health.

No young person should feel alone with their mental health and that's why Hello Yellow matters. We're taking this opportunity as a school community to come together and show our students that we're with them and they're never alone with their mental health.

We'll be taking part by wearing something yellow with our school uniform. You can also donate to support our school's fundraising by clicking on the donation link or QR code below.

Most importantly, we want to share the resources which YoungMinds offer to support parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children. This includes:

- online resources (www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/)
- a phone line, open 9.30am-4pm (0808 802 5544)
- an online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you're concerned about your children's mental health (www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/)



<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/s/1061/1063>

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1016068) and Scotland (SC039700)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ACCURACY

AI language models such as ChatGPT, generate their responses based on the data they have been trained on. This is often drawn from the internet and therefore may include incorrect facts, leading to responses which contain errors and inaccuracies.

BIAS

AI Language models, including ChatGPT, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained on. This could lead to biased responses and the reinforcement of stereotypes.

SENSE

AI solutions do not have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or prompt. This could result in inaccurate or irrelevant or even non-sensical responses, whether that be in text, image or other responses.

AI solutions are trained on a large dataset of text to learn patterns and relationships in the data and generate text, images, sound or even video based on the data they are trained on. As such, users can ask a question, provide a prompt or provide other source material, and the AI solution will then provide a response.

ACCOUNTABILITY

AI solutions do not have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could cause confusion or misunderstandings in language models if the AI's responses are taken as fact and the truth. With generative AIs that create images, it can lead to output derived from other people's content but without any attribution of the source artist's work.

LACK OF CREATIVITY

AI solutions are not capable of independent thought and rely on the data they were trained on. This may potentially produce a lack of creative thinking and problem-solving abilities if students come to be heavily reliant on AI solutions.

Advice for Parents & Carers

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Empower children and young people to use the various AI models in a safe environment and with appropriate content filtering/supervision, and to raise any concerns or questions as they arise.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Encourage children to use AI solutions as tools to help them research and learn, but remind them to not take the model's responses as the truth. Emphasise that they should question, verify and think critically about the information they receive.

DISCUSS BIAS

Discuss with children the potential biases that may be present in the responses generated by AI language models and encourage them not to simply accept the responses that it gives them at face value.

MONITOR USAGE

It is important for parents to monitor their children's usage of AI solutions (as with technology use in general) to ensure that they are utilising it responsibly and to provide opportunities to discuss its use, if needed.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Help children learn how to use AIs in conjunction with other resources, such as books and the internet, but also humans such as teachers, relatives and friends. Emphasise the importance of human interaction as part of life and as part of learning.

SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Be aware of school rules or other guidance in relation to the use of AI solutions in relation to a child's education and discuss appropriate and inappropriate with young people accordingly.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT in a large UK boarding school having previously taught in schools and colleges both in the UK and in the Middle East. He has a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security believing that it is important that we are all more aware of not just the benefits of technology, but also the risks.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://openai.com/index/chatgpt/>

FOREST SCHOOL





This year, we are proud to celebrate Ms Jo Cockerill's 30 years of dedicated service to Okehampton Primary School. For three decades, Jo has worked tirelessly to provide our children with nutritious meals, a warm smile, and exceptional care. Her commitment, kindness, and contribution to our school community have touched generations of pupils and families.

Thank you, Jo, for 30 wonderful years of service. We are truly grateful for all that you do

DATES FOR THE DIARY



29

SEPT

NHS FLU VACCINATION VISIT

📍 Re - Year 6

🕒 09:00PM

29

SEPT

OCRA WEST DEVON FOOTBALL

📍 TAVISTOCK

🕒 11:00AM

5

OCT

OCRA TAG RUGBY TOURNAMENT

📍 OKE COLLEGE

🕒 10:00 AM

7

OCT

TEMPEST -INDIVIDUAL & SIBLING PHOTOS

📍 OPS

🕒 VARIOUS

9

OCT

HELLO YELLOW - YONG MINDS

📍 OPS

🕒 VARIOUS

21

OCT

PARENTS EVENING

📍 OPS

🕒 15:30 PM

22

OCT

PARENTS EVENING

📍 OPS

🕒 15:30 PM